

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Howe

Post Office Box 529  
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

9/6/02

Dear Mr. Page:

We still want a true by pass of Blowing Rock and think that mixing local and through traffic is a recipe for disaster.

Sincerely,  
Betty Howe

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION  
RECEIVED  
SEP 13 2002

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Howe

Post Office Box 529  
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

August 22, 02

Mr. William Gilmore, Mgr.  
PDEA Branch, NCDOT  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC 27699-1548

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

Twelve years ago NCDOT representatives said if they did a bypass then, they would have to do it over in 20 years. Twelve years plus 4-6 for litigation and we will be two years from needing a true bypass? After the town has been destroyed? Some of us in Blowing Rock have a hard time understanding this kind of rationale. We also don't believe the estimates that are pulled out of the air since the first section was so badly estimated that the company went bankrupt, understating eighty eight percent of the traffic in going

through anyway. I'm enclosing some question  
that we need answered as well as a pamphlet  
that has been done to tell our story.

Why not do a model job once and do it  
right?

Sincerely,  
Betty Howe

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Howe

Post Office Box 529  
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605

Sept. 6, 62

Dear Mr. Dickson:

We want a true by pass and think DOT  
needs to go back to the drawing board for  
Blowing Rock.

Sincerely,  
Betty Howe

Mr. William Gilmore, Manager  
PDEA Branch, NCDOT  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548  
August 23, 2002

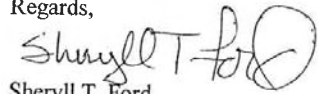
Dear Mr. Gilmore,

I beg you please not to murder the Town of Blowing Rock by building a four lane highway through or near it. As a property owner and resident of Florida I can assure you that a slower speed limit will not help. Once you open the gate a perfect jewel will be ruined forever.

As a tax payer in Blowing Rock I urge you to consider what is best for the town, not what is best for the Flow of Traffic.

Thank you for your help.

Regards,

  
Sheryll T. Ford

B-103

AUG 29 2002

# COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Walter Ford

ADDRESS:

3986 Blackberry Rd Lenoir N.C.  
2864

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

please follow the existing Route of 321. I know the Real estate firms want the Alternates just to open up more land for them. ~~the~~ Most families effected in the Blackberry Community are ~~the~~ long time residence. Most people that want to avoid using existing route are seasonal residence. There will be so very much and disturbed by using the Alternates. Run off from this will create more problems for the Yadkin River Basin. If the Existing Route is not used. just do nothing.

Comments may be mailed to:

C. B. Goode, Jr., P. E.

Manager of the Office of Human Environment

1583 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1599 Phone: (919) 250-4092 Fax: (919) 250-4208

E-mail: cgoode@dot.state.nc.us

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

DENNIS HULL

ADDRESS:

1304 BLACKBERRY ROAD BOONE, NC 28607

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

B-104  
In 1997 we bought property and built a log home on the ridge overlooking the Blackberry Valley. We bought this particular piece of land because of the beautiful view... never thinking that there might someday be a highway intruding on the valley. On the other hand the property owners knew that Highway 321 bisected the town when they were there or bought property there. Improving the existing highway will therefore be far less damaging to the aesthetics of the residents overlooking Blackberry than it will be on the residents overlooking Blackberry Valley and the potentially millions of tourists who will have the negative impact of travelling the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway only to find at the Thunder Hill overlook to gaze down upon a four lane highway widening an existing road at 945,000 mpy versus building a new highway through pristine countryside at \$250,000 mpy does not make sense for spending my tax dollars.

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COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

KATHY HULL

ADDRESS:

1304 BLACKBERRY Rd. BOONE NC 28607

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

We bought our property overlooking Blackberry Valley and built our dream retirement home with the views and peaceful quiet being important in our location decision. It seems that a 4 lane bypass will bring unwanted noise and disrupt our beautiful views of natural beauty. I think the highway should be widened as it runs through the valley. People with homes and businesses on US 321 know or should have known when they bought and/or built that the highway would widen with the bypass. I also think that cost should be a major factor especially with the deficits the state is facing now. If I could vote on this issue, I would vote "WIDEN".

Comments may be mailed to:

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Raleigh, NC 27699-1599 Phone: (919) 250-4092 Fax: (919) 250-4208

E-mail: cgoode@dot.state.nc.us

Crisman S. Jones, Jr.  
P.O. Box 1730  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

CITIZEN  
RECEIVED

August 27, 2002

Mr. C.B. Goode, Jr., P.E.  
Manager of the Office of Human Environment  
1583 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

Re: US 321 Improvements, Project No. 6.739001T, TIP No. R-2237C

Dear Mr. Goode:

I am a citizen and year-round resident of the Town of Blowing Rock and an owner of three (3) parcels of property (one of which being my home). All property is located within the town limits and will be either directly and/or indirectly affected by the captioned project; specifically, Bypass Alternatives 1A and 1B. Please enter my *strong objection to Bypass Alternatives 1A and 1B* into the public records and make a part of the Official Public Hearing Transcript.

I agree with the DOT's Draft Environmental Impact Statement that reports Bypass Alternatives 1A and 1B will "divide several neighborhoods, reduce community character, have substantial visual impact, have the greatest potential to lower property values, and that travel benefits do not offset construction costs."

Since having built my permanent home in a small, single-family residential neighborhood located near Possum Hollow Road, and having purchased two (2) building lots in a single-family residential neighborhood of Wonderland Woods, located off Green Hill Road, never could I have imagined this area as being considered by the DOT as a potential corridor location for a four-lane, divided bypass highway.

Conversely, an individual who freely chooses to purchase/own property or operate a business along the existing US 321 Highway should have the common sense to know that such a roadway may be subject to improvements and widening, as the DOT's Widening Alternative contemplates.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Crisman S. Jones, Jr.

Copy: Honorable J. B. Lawrence, Mayor of Blowing Rock

Subject: FW: A plea

Date: Tue, 27 Aug 2002 17:08:03 -0400

From: "Page, John" <PageJ@pbworld.com>

To: "Missy Dickens PE (mdickens@dot.state.nc.us)" <mdickens@dot.state.nc.us>,  
"Carl Goode (NCDOT) (cgoode@dot.state.nc.us)" <cgoode@dot.state.nc.us>

Missy and Carl,

Jan Karon is the author of the popular "Mitford" series of novels. "Mitford" is a fictional town modeled after Blowing Rock and Ms. Karon is a resident of Blowing Rock.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: howie1@ntelos.net [mailto:howie1@ntelos.net]

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2002 6:52 PM

To: blowingrock321@dot.state.nc.us

Subject: A plea

The building of a major highway through our small and economically sensitive town will be disastrous in many ways, not the least of which is the destruction of our only industry: tourism.

Nor can we afford the price extracted by a so-called convenience that robs us of a priceless and clearly irreplaceable smalltown culture.

Let us not give away without conscience what everyone in today's world is seeking: beauty, charm, grace, and a system of values that still works.

Thank you, Jan Karon

**COMMENT SHEET**

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

*Susan E. Keefe*

ADDRESS:

*PO Box 949, 335 Laurel Park Rd, Blowing Rock, NC*

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

*I am opposed to an enlarged Hwy 321 through the town of Blowing Rock. This will negatively impact the town due to increased drive-through traffic and detours through Main St. during construction. The High Country is growing rapidly. It will be in Blowing Rock's best interests to maintain its village character. It will also be in the interests for tourism in the High Country. Please consider a true by-pass outside the town limits.*

Comments may be mailed to:

C. B. Goode, Jr., P. E.

Manager of the Office of Human Environment

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Raleigh, NC 27699-1599 Phone: (919) 250-4092 Fax: (919) 250-4208

E-mail: cgoode@dot.state.nc.us

**Scales, Reggie**

From: Missy Dickens [mdickens@dot.state.nc.us]

Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2002 10:07 AM

To: Carl Goode; Reggie Scales

Subject: Fwd: Thank you!

Hearing comment

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Thank you

Date: Mon, 26 Aug 2002 18:33:33 -0400

From: <howie1@ntelos.net>

To: <mdickens@dot.state.nc.us>

Thank you for continuing to do everything in your power to prevent the destruction of Blowing Rock's irreplaceable charm and priceless community fabric. The disruption of a major highway into sensitive residential and business areas will have a dramatic and negative economic impact for decades to come. With appreciation for all you're doing, Jan Karon

Page 1 of 1

8/29/2002

B-106

ORIGINAL SUBMITTED  
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OCT 01 2002

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Cora H Keen

ADDRESS:

1978 Greenhill Rd, PO Box 1389,  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

For all the right reasons — environmental, safety, and cost, I think the 321 By-Pass should be widened as the road now goes and the "Concerned Citizens" group learn to deal with it.

The meeting at the Assembly Grounds brought voice from the people who are here twelve months a year and will always be here. We are the ones who have seen changes and the results and have learned that the DOT makes decisions that are most beneficial to everyone. I feel that this will be true in this decision.

Thank you

Cora Helder Keen

Comments may be mailed to:

C. B. Goode, Jr., P. E.

Manager of the Office of Human Environment

1583 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1599 Phone: (919) 250-4092

Fax: (919) 250-4208

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RECEIVED

SEP 12 2002

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Joanne Keen

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 604 Cedar Mountain NC 28718

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

I am opposed to Bypass Alternative 4AB. I lived in Blowing Rock 5 years ago for 17 years. I was opposed to it then and am still opposed to it. It makes no sense from a financial or environmental standpoint to pursue this alternative. If it is absolutely necessary (which I have serious doubts about) to 4 lane a section thru Blowing Rock then this is the alternative to pursue.

Comments may be mailed to:

C. B. Goode, Jr., P. E.

Manager of the Office of Human Environment

1583 Mail Service Center

B-107

COMMENT SHEET

US 321 Improvements

Corridor Public Hearing

R-2237C

Project 6.739001T

Caldwell and Watauga Counties

August 26, 2002

NAME:

Woody Keen

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 664 Cedar Mt. 28718

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

I am opposed to the bypass alternative 4AB  
optioned to alignment of 321. I favor widening  
the existing 321 corridor. The alternative 4AB  
will disrupt too much natural resources.

Comments may be mailed to:

C. B. Goode, Jr., P. E.

Manager of the Office of Human Environment

1583 Mail Service Center

Blowing Rock, NC 27606-1583 Phone (813) 652-1000 Fax (813) 652-1000

CITIZEN

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2002

Homer R. Ketchie

P. O. Box 971

Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Memorandum for the North Carolina Department of Transportation

My wife and I strongly support the widening of Highway 321 through Blowing Rock.

In my opinion:

Construction of the tunnel alternative is impossible and impractical.

Construction of another four-lane highway through any part of Blowing Rock would also be totally impractical.

Sincerely,

Homer R. Ketchie

Homer R. Ketchie

B-108



100 21 2002

Mr. Lyndo Tippet

P.O. Box 25201

Raleigh, N.C. 27699-5201

The citizens of this great Republic go all over the world  
praising the virtues of our Constitutional right to individual  
freedom.

Now I, as a citizen of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, appeal  
to you to prove that our rights are real....not just idle talk!

Our little village is only two streets wide. There is no room  
for even one more goldfish!

B-109

Who would wish to bring in additional hordes of cars and trucks  
and motorcycles?

The people of Blowing Rock do not want this widening of the highway.

Can't you hear us?

Are you listening?

Does the fate of this village depend on the protection of the  
wishes of its citizens....or the whim of unelected road  
department factotums?

Sincerely,

*Marjorie Niles Kime*  
Marjorie Niles Kime

RECEIVED  
AUG 22 2002

Mrs. Robert Clay Kime  
P.O. Box 1253  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605 1253

27699-5201  
Denver, NC 28037  
August 17, 2002

Carl Goode  
PE, Manager  
Office of Human Environment  
NCDOT  
1583 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

Dear Mr. Goode

REF: US 321 EIS

I own a home in Blue Ridge Township, Watauga County.

People move to or live in the mountains to enjoy nature, its view, habitat, and  
tranquillity. To slash the pristine landscape with a polluting four-lane highway borders  
on a sacrilege!

Neighborhoods, businesses and residents adjacent to Highway 321 are conditioned to the  
traffic. Many have actually located close to the highway for ease of access to the road.

Future road construction should be limited to widening US 321. Its disruption of virgin  
land is the least. Also an important item at a time our State Government is struggling to  
meet budget, is the least cost alternative.

Sincerely,

*Frank W. Kiszely*  
Frank W. Kiszely

Scales, Reggie

**From:** Ken and Michelle Larking [kmlarking@twave.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 26, 2002 8:08 PM  
**To:** ScalesR@pbworld.com  
**Subject:** US 321 in Blowing Rock

I will not be able to attend the public hearing on US 321 in Blowing Rock at the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds tonight. Is there anyway to get minutes or a transcript of what was said during the public hearing? Thanks for your help!

Ken Larking  
 78 44th Avenue Place, NE  
 Hickory, NC 28601

9/4/2002

22 Nov 2002  
 BLOWING ROCK, N.C.

AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN OF THIS SMALL MOUNTAIN TOWN I AM WRITING TO PROTEST THE PROPOSED WIDENING OF HIGHWAY 321.

WITH MORE THAN 85% OF TRAFFIC BOUND FOR OTHER DESTINATIONS THAN BLOWING ROCK A BYPASS IS THE LOGICAL ALTERNATIVE TO WIDENING. SINCE A BYPASS IS AN EVENTUAL CERTAINTY, THE COST NOW WILL BE MUCH LESS THAN 10 OR 15 YEARS OUT.

A CONSIDERABLE MAJORITY OF BLOWING ROCK CITIZENS AS WELL AS OUR TOWN COUNCIL OPPOSE THIS WASTEFUL WIDENING AND FAVOR A BYPASS. PLEASE LISTEN TO US.

SINCERELY




COL. W.F. KOERSCHNER  
 227 Wonderland Dr  
 Blowing Rock, NC 28605

B-110